

# Documents on Diplomacy: Exercises

## Philosophical Discussion Questions

● What is the purpose of government? Why even have it in its many forms?

● Explain the difference between a fraternal and a paternal relationship with other nations?

● According to Halle, what is an "ideal state?"

● Why was the United States able to get its independence? What stages of political sophistication allowed it to happen?

● Describe what Halle means by political sophistication.

● What does Halle mean by Latin American counties "were getting ready" for democratic self-government in the nineteenth century? What examples does he use?

● What evidence does he give of rising political consciousness among the masses?

● Explain the theory he mentions as the Hegelian principle of "action, reaction and synthesis."

● What exactly is the democratic ideal? Define these terms.

● What delays the development of democracy?

● What are your thoughts and experiences with the idea that democracy is achieved by evolution rather than revolution? And that it is not the absence of dictators?

● What have been the obstacles to the growth of democracy in Latin American countries? How do the habits of so-called "free elections" negate the whole process?

● How can immaturity and irresponsibility lead to international anarchy? Can you cite any current examples?

● Using this paragraph from Halle's writing, explain its application to any recent events world wide and predict the outcomes:

"Democracy is not an absolute condition, to be assumed by a people as one puts on an overcoat. It is political maturity. Like all maturity, it is various in its degrees and manifestations, and it is produced by the slow process of maturation. You cannot impose it by force, you cannot acquire it by decree or legislative enactment, and you cannot produce it out of a hat by exhortation. It must be cultivated lovingly, tirelessly over the generations. It must be cultivated with perseverance and the stamina that comes from an assured faith in the possibilities of human nature. It must be built up, as Woodrow Wilson said, 'by slow habit.'"

● How does one leadership country get other countries to take the responsibility for the growth of their own democracies? How do you get other countries to strive for their own democratic self-realization?

● If we send aid, support for economic development, gifts, and/or technical assistance what should we expect in return or is our notion of help too self-righteous and/or caught up in our own xenophobia?

● What is moral leadership? Who provides it? How is it done?

● What is an adult nation? How do we treat adult nations as opposed to childlike nations?

● Explain what Halle means by the fact that our moral foreign policy must...

- ◆ Be for democracy rather than merely against dictators,
- ◆ Be cooperative rather than self-righteous and denunciatory,
- ◆ Be candid rather than conspiratorial,
- ◆ Seek its own realization by developing a moral credit that supports it.